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LB 407

shortfall well over a year ago. So we never got the full funding of that. Well, now we could take and we could still carve out...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...some dollars coming into the program immediately from the tobacco settlement program. When the Appropriations Committee come out and said, well, we'll cut that in half, or more than half of the \$7 million, we'll fund \$3 million a year to keep this program up and going. I will say this. Like any drug prevention program, alcohol prevention, smoking prevention, once you stop, you're going to see the increase go back up again among teenage smokers. You're going to see also no reduction, or little reduction, in the adult population. Senator Janssen said, you know, the best prevention control program is a bat (laugh) to use on your kids that ever pick it up. Well, we don't do that in society anymore, a baseball bat. But this has been a program that has worked. And we're seeing less teenagers smoke, over...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...the past several years. Thank you, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Stuhr, on the Raikes amendment to LB 407.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I believe education is always an important aspect, and it's very important in this area. But I am going to support the amendment. We're...this is just not business as usual for our state. We have to make those tough decisions. And I know all of us have certain programs that we've worked with that we feel very strongly about. But is this something that the state can do without? I believe it is, at this time, and that's why I will be supporting the amendment. I think, as I said, we have to make some tough decisions. Education is important. I think there are other opportunities that will be found to educate without expending this money from our budget. So I will be